

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A surge suppression circuit formed by the steps of:
 - a. testing a series of energy dissipating elements to identify a plurality of energy
5 dissipating elements each having a nominal voltage within less than approximately $\pm 5\%$
of a mean nominal voltage of said plurality; and
 - b. assembling said plurality of energy dissipating elements into a surge suppression
circuit.
2. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 1, wherein said energy dissipating
10 elements are metal oxide varistors.
3. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 2, wherein said metal oxide varistors
have a nominal voltage within less than approximately $\pm 2\%$ of a mean nominal voltage of said
plurality.
4. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 3, further including at least one thermal
15 cut-off device.
5. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 2, wherein said metal oxide varistors are
in a parallel configuration.
6. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of metal oxide
varistors number between two and ten.
- 20 7. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of metal oxide
varistors number more than three.

8. A surge suppression circuit formed by the steps of:

a. manufacturing plurality of energy dissipating elements all of which have a nominal voltage within less than approximately $\pm 5\%$ of a mean nominal voltage of said plurality; and

5 b. assembling said plurality of energy dissipating elements into a surge suppression circuit.

9. The surge suppression circuit according to claim 6, wherein at least one of said metal oxide varistors has a thermal cutoff device formed integrally therewith.

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